REMARKS

The following remarks are responsive to Final Office Action of September 26, 2008.

At the time of the Office Action claims 1–12 were pending. Claims 1, 2, and 7–12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,697,778 to Kuhn, et al. (hereinafter Kuhn). Claims 3–6 were indicated as including allowable subject matter.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claims 2 and 3, which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable. Furthermore, claim 7 has been similarly amended to include allowable subject matter. Claim 12 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Conclusion

Since all independent claims have been amended to include allowable subject matter, the application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If further changes are needed, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

/brian c. rupp/

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